

Stolen Wallets

There was a wallet taken on Tuesday:
Out of a jacket lying on the desk top in the hallway in the Green House.
There were many more people in and out of the house that day,
Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday was the draw,
So we did not know each other.
We assumed everything to be safe and inviolate.
We were wrong.

Coming out of the Y in Hyde Park, Chicago, I passed three young men;
I didn't really pay too much attention; the seminary was only 6 blocks away.
After walking a block and a half, two of the men caught up and stopped me
Right there on 53rd Street, at dusk, my wallet was requested.
I remembered seeing three and passed over my wallet.
As I left, quite rattled, I noticed the third had been standing behind me.

There is something lost when billfolds are stolen
In the Green House and on the street in Chicago:
Some money, credit cards, and driver's license
All take time to replace; yet, there is more.
In the Green House loss was the first and cherished library card,
In Chicago it was the marriage license money
Carefully saved and withdrawn that afternoon.

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday
We are reminded of origins and endings
Remember
From dust to dust
Thanks be to God
It is Lent
We are called to greater acts of prayer, fasting, and mercy.
Stolen wallets are not thought to be part of this journey
Yet, there is a giving up, a giving away . . .
Albeit not of our own volition . . .
There is something lost in Lent
And there is something gained
This helps

The Ash Wednesday preacher reminded me:
Fast from judgment, Feast on compassion
Fast from greed, Feast on sharing
Fast from scarcity, Feast on abundance
Fast from fear, Feast on peace
Fast from lies, Feast on truth

Fast from gossip, Feast on praise
Fast from anxiety, Feast on patience
Fast from evil, Feast on kindness
Fast from apathy, Feast on engagement
Fast from discontent, Feast on gratitude
Fast from noise, Feast on silence
Fast from discouragement, Feast on hope
Fast from hatred, Feast on love
What will be your fast? What will be your feast?

Worship – love God together with God’s people:

Grace University Lutheran Church at 8:30 or 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

University Lutheran Church of Hope at 8:30 and 10:30 AM

Mercy Seat at 5 PM (at ULC Hope)

Trinity Lutheran Church (at Augustana’s Chapel) at 8:45 or 11 AM.

Peace, friends

Fritz Wehrenberg, campus pastor

fritz@umnlutheran.org